

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 21, 1910.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The 51st Semi-annual general conference
of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints will convene in the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Thurs-
day, October 6, 1910, at 10 o'clock a.m.

A general Priesthood meeting will be
held on Friday evening, October 7, in
the Tabernacle, commencing at 7
o'clock.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
JOHN HENRY SMITH,
First Presidency.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

A general conference of the Deseret
Sunday School union will be held in the
tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday eve-
ning, Oct. 9, at 7 o'clock. All interested
in Sunday school work are invited to
attend.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
DAVID O. MCKAY,
STEPHEN L. RICHARDS,
General Superintendency.

BOOKS AND LIBRARIES.

The public library, in American
cities, is said to represent the best
aspirations of the community. With
us, it is no longer, as it once was, the
city hall and the courts, because the
deterioration in the tone of political
life has cooled the popular ardor for-
merly felt for them. Nor is it, as in
older countries, the church that is the
real center of the most enlightened
popular interest; for the churches have
become here merely the spiritual habita-
tions of the few—the higher frag-
ments of the society of the average
American town. It is far otherwise
with the library—the one truly demo-
cratic institution that serves all alike
with equal fidelity and constancy.

The Architectural Record maintains
that the typical American aspiration
is embodied in the word "education."
The most popular organ of education
is the public library, for it alone be-
longs to the entire community. It is
the common property of all, and is
rapidly winning the title of the most
appreciated of American institutions.

This fact is well attested by the
success of the Packard public library
in this city and the enormous contribu-
tion which it makes daily to the en-
tertainment of the people and to the
cultivation of the reading habit among
the youth.

One suggestion we would make is
that the taste of readers should not
be the sole or even the main criterion
in the purchase of the reading mat-
ter. We suspect that the recommend-
ing or purchasing committee is not
large enough nor sufficiently differen-
tiated, to procure exactly the class of
books most needful for the intellectual
and spiritual uplift of the large and
diversified patronage of these institu-
tions. There should be one commit-
tee for the selection of work on art,
another for each of the divisions known
respectively as fiction, history, Bible
study, biography, physical sciences,
natural sciences, research in various
scientific lines, agriculture, architect-
ure, arts, crafts, trades, and so forth.
Only thus can we get the best.

A committee on juvenile fiction
should be most carefully selected, also
another on historical novels and sci-
entific works attractive to young peo-
ple. In fact, the services of several
hundred of the most intelligent, sym-
pathetic and scholarly people of our
city should form the advisory com-
mittee on the purchase of books. Not
all attractive and pure fiction should
be placed before the eager mind of
youth. Fiction must be not only clean,
and interesting, but it should portray
truth, in order to justify its place
among selected library books.

The London Times, in a recent arti-
cle, shows clearly the difference be-
tween mere imagination and real
knowledge on the part of the writers of
fiction. Some novels are made out of
nothing and are relatively worthless.
Others deal with real characters, true
emotions, and actual possible situa-
tions in life, and are as true as real
history or exact science. The com-
monest fault of novels is lack of
knowledge; and it is just because of
this that they fall in imagination. Says
the Times:

"The great dramatist makes none of
his characters out of nothing.
If they live, they must all be based
upon what he knows of other men and
what he knows of himself. And his
knowledge of other men is, in turn,
based upon his knowledge of himself.
For that is the only complete knowl-
edge of human nature that he can at-
tain to. He observes, and he knows the
meaning of what he observes, by a
scientific process, for in other men he
sees only outward symptoms."
"For imagination is encouraged
and enriched by knowledge of all
kinds, and flags for the want of it.
Knowledge is, as it were, the soil by
which the flower of imagination is
nourished; and, the greater the writer,
the greater his passion for knowl-
edge and the more use he can make
of all that he knows."

"Scott is perhaps the most imagina-
tive of all our novelists, and none of
them has had a knowledge so vast
and diverse. It is the same with
Tolstoy. His novels interest us so
much, even when the story seems lost
in them, because he is always telling
us of what he knows. He can interest
us in Levin mowing, because he has
mowed himself, or in Andrew
Bokunsky fighting, because he has

fought himself. If in these cases he
were not writing out of his own ex-
perience, his narrative would be empty
of detail and illusion.

"And so it is with stories or poems
of passion. They are dull if the writer
can only tell us that he or some one
else is very powerfully moved. He
must, even in poetry, tell us facts
about passion if we are to listen to
what he says, though he may tell
them indirectly; and they must not be
second-hand facts that he has learned
from other writers."

And all this is as true of works
on history, science, biography, and
other spheres of human thought as it
plainly is of fiction. Second-hand
science and the mere reading of nat-
ural history may blunt the mind and
deadens the taste for real acqui-
sitions in science, and may prevent the
wholesome enjoyment of actual nature
which such books should bring. Hence
any fact of local history that can be
verified and known at first hand is
worth a dozen facts about the history
of other places which we cannot in
some way prove or look into more
directly than we can by reading about
the mere fact itself. So any fact about
local natural history that directs our
interested attention to a bird, a
stream, a plant, or even a porcu-
pine that we can actually see, is far
more fruitful than ever so much
wonderful stuff about something afar
off that we can neither observe nor
investigate.

These leading principles should
guide in the selection of books; so that
the best learning and talent avail-
able in the community should be
secured for this service.

Many of the towns in Utah are
about to erect public library build-
ings; others have already done so;
and here again great care is necessary.
The Architectural Record observes
that these buildings in the smaller
cities have suffered from being treat-
ed too much as educational institu-
tions and not enough merely as the
shell of a reading-room and a book-
stack. But in the larger cities, whose
libraries are large, well equipped, and
fully capable of becoming valuable
agencies for the dissemination of
knowledge and ideas among a large
number of people, the institutional
idea has a much better chance of ef-
fective architectural expression. Such
was particularly the case, it says, with
the New York Public Library.

Just as all such buildings should be,
the New York library, now nearing
completion, is distinguished in ap-
pearance rather than imposing. "It is
intended for popular rather than of-
ficial use, and the building issues to
the people an invitation to enter
rather than a command."

The Utah Library and Gymnasium
Commission is now principally en-
gaged in an advisory capacity—that
of suggesting to the people of the
various towns how they can create
and maintain this most typical of
American institutions, the public
library, and, wherever possible, a
gymnasium in connection with it.
Citizens interested in the movement
and the friends of education, who-
ever, and wherever, are cordially in-
vited to solicit the co-operation of the
Commission by addressing the secre-
tary, Prof. J. H. Paul at the Univer-
sity of Utah, Dr. George Thomas of
Logan is the President of the Board;
Drs. Wm. M. Stewart and E. G.
Gowans, and Prof. John M. Mills
and John S. Welch are the other mem-
bers.

Every town in Utah can have and
should have a public free library and
a reading room. The actual average
cost of maintaining such an institution,
the secretary informs us, will be one
dollar per year from each family. The
state law authorizes the levy of a
tax for this purpose. No community
needs to be long without its library.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

A correspondent of the Boston Trans-
cript discusses the question of munici-
pal ownership from the standpoint of
actual observations made in the City
of Bournemouth, England, where that
principle is carried out to its full ex-
tent. The city owns the elevator on
which passengers are carried from the
towering bluff to the water's edge. It
owns a beach and bath houses. It owns
piers and a number of cottages. It
owns street car lines and golf links.
It owns cemeteries, play grounds, and
parks. It will some day own its wa-
ter system and light plant, too.

The correspondent tells us that the
service is in every way satisfactory. A
case in point is that of the tramways.
Instead of noisy, rattling, grinding, ear-
splitting, nerve-destroying street cars,
the tramways at Bournemouth are
quiet, smooth and almost noiseless.
The cars themselves are supplied with
comfortable seats on top. They are so
well and carefully built, with tracks
which are equally well and carefully
laid, that they slip along as quietly
almost as the ordinary motor-car. There
is no banging of bells. One notices al-
so an entire absence of the tedious
ringing of the fare and our equally
noisy signals both to start and stop.
The conductor communicates with the
motor-man by means of a soft electric
bell, and if this by chance should be
out of reach at the moment he has a
small melodious whistle. Altogether
the system satisfies, and one notices
with interest the handsome and ap-
propriate uniform of the conductors
and the motor-men—the motor-man being
often clad with in high dark leather
gaiters or puttees which reach from
the ankle to the knee.

The service in other branches of mu-
nicipal business is said to be equally
satisfactory. But the correspondent
says it does not pay. It has been es-
timated that Bournemouth loses ap-
proximately a half-penny in the pound,
or in other words, one cent in each \$5
of expenditure. There are certain of
the enterprises which show a substan-
tial profit, such as the foreshore and
the beach, the cliff elevators, the golf links,
the cricket grounds, etc. One of the
piers, too, returns a handsome profit.
But the street cars, it is claimed, are
now run at a loss. They are not run
on Sundays, and no advertising is per-
mitted in the cars. This deprives them
of considerable revenue, and the people
must make up the loss by added taxes,
but for all that Bournemouth has grown
wonderfully. It had 17,000 inhabitants

twenty years ago, and 70,000 now, and
that speaks well for the government.
The place is clean and orderly. It has
ample play grounds for the children,
and places of recreation for all.

Whether American cities ought to
imitate this example, depends entirely
upon whether it is possible to elect
honest, capable men for the municipal
offices. Those who get offices by cor-
rupt methods are sure to bring corrup-
tion into the offices, and in their hands
municipal ownership would be only a
means to graft and to entrench dis-
honesty more securely in its position.
The problem of municipal ownership is,
first of all, the problem of the elec-
tion of good men for office. That is, in
fact, the chief problem.

THE CASE OF BROWN.

From the printed reports it appears
that the police for which the so-called
"American" party is responsible, con-
siders it in harmony with American
ideals of personal liberty to drag gen-
tlemen from the street to the police
station, search them, beat them, and
treat them as tramps and criminals,
without sufficient justification. That is
the inference from the published re-
ports of the case of Rev. William
Thurston Brown and William Jurgens.
The two men were arrested by one of
the creatures of the "American" police
because they were preaching Socialism
in the streets, the charge being that
they were obstructing the sidewalk.
Brown was handcuffed, it appears, with a
severity entirely uncalled for, since
both were discharged by the Judge,
there not being any evidence that they
had obstructed the sidewalk. If the ac-
tion of the police in this one case is
sustained, there is no personal security
any more in this city. Any man may
be hauled to the police station on some
charge or other, treated as a criminal
and subjected to indignities, and then
discharged.

The allegation that the two men
were obstructing the sidewalk seems
to be far fetched, in view of the fact
that street fakers of all kinds are doing
the very same thing every night, for
which they were arrested. Why the
discrimination? Is the obstruction of
the sidewalk by a patent medicine fakir,
for instance, less objectionable than by
a Socialist orator? However, we are
not surprised at the stand taken by
the police. It is in full harmony with
the party it serves.

Attention should be called to the fact,
though, that it is under an "Ameri-
can" administration that freedom of
speech in the streets is being ques-
tioned. It is under so-called "Ameri-
can" rule that the particular brand of
Socialism of which Mr. Brown is an
advocate is pursued from the streets
of the city. From that there is but
a step to the pursuit of every other
open-air speaker who does not endorse
the party in power. Is it, may we
ask, the intention of the party bosses
to enact political support as a pay-
ment for the privilege of speaking in
the streets? Or, are they afraid of
public discussion? There may be valid
objections to street meetings in gen-
eral, but as long as they are permitted,
all should be treated alike. And the
authority to say who may, or who
may not, use the streets for harangues
should certainly not be vested in an of-
ficial who is in the service of a party
and not the people.

Work kills some but many more kill
time.

When a man is his own worst enemy
he doesn't own it.

Has the Outlook reaped all the bene-
fits it anticipated?

It can be said of the bore that he
has staying qualities.

Every little helps, except little boys
when their parents ask them to.

Unlike a prima donna, the Colonel
never announces a farewell tour.

Of all sad words of tongue or pen the
saddest are these—sadder, saddest.

Next to cutting-down expenses Mayor
Gaynor's favorite occupation is cutting
corn.

"Money is easy in Wall Street," says
an exchange. But not so "easy" as
"lamb."

As the ranks of the Grand Army are
thinned the grunder that army seems
to become.

The New Haven conference has fur-
nished food for reflection and for
fletcherizing.

The star political student can't say
positively just what lesson the Maine
election teaches.

The day and the night are of equal
length today. Equality never lasts
more than one day.

"Our country is wherever we are well
off," said Milton. Then are those who
do not know when they are well off
without a country?

So far as known, good intentions are
only used for paving in one place, but
they seem to stand the wear and tear.

If he should be elected governor of
New Jersey would Dr. Woodrow Wil-
son advocate government by commit-
tee?

The "progressive" has become the
"regular's" second cousin and the "in-
surgent" has become the "progressive's"
poor relation.

The fact that the course of true love
did never yet run smooth does not ex-
plain the troubles that Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Winthrop Chanler are experi-
encing.

The lives of great men all remind
us how we can make our own sublime,
but the lives of rich men do not at all
remind us how we can make ourselves
rich.

It would be much better to cremate
the wild ducks that have died from
some unknown cause than to bury
them, especially as the cause of their

death has become a burning question.

At the University of Berlin Colonel
Roosevelt kept the Kaiser waiting. At
the New Haven luncheon he kept the
President waiting. George Washing-
ton's rule was to be ahead of the time
a few minutes always.

The other day lightning struck the
statue of Henry Clay at Lexington,
Ky. All his life Henry had his light-
ning rod up but the lightning never
struck him; and when he found that
he could not coax it his way he said,
"I would rather be right than Presi-
dent."

JUST FOR FUN.

A Trouble Maker.

John Fox, the novelist, stayed over-
night in a cabin in the Kentucky
mountains. In the morning he repaired
to a mountain stream, producing inci-
dentally from his traveling case a comb
and a toothbrush, and being regarded
critically by a native youth, who finally
said:

"Say, mister, ain't you a lot of
trouble to yourself?"—Ladies' Home
Journal.

The Modern Idea.

"Would you marry for money?"
asked one girl of another.
"Not I! I want brains!" was the re-
ply.

"Yes, I should think so," said the first
speaker, "if you don't want to marry
for money!"—Ideas.

Graft.

"The directors of the road were a
precious lot of grafters."
"You don't say so!"

"Yes; every last man of them had his
appendix removed, and charged the
cost to operating expenses."—Fack.

He Had.

"Papa, did you ever see a little bird
with a big bill?"
"Yes, son, I once ordered a quail on
toast at a fashionable restaurant."—
Houston Post.

About All.

"Can a man do any good at college
at 50?"
"Well, he's too old for football, of
course. He might possibly get on the
mandolin club."—Kansas City Journal.

In Boston.

"Do you believe in fairies, little girl?"
"No; but I pretend to, just to please
mamma. She thinks I do, and why
rob her of her harmless illusion?"—
Kansas City Journal.

All Balled Up Again.

Mr. Makinbrakes had just been intro-
duced to a rising politician.
"I am glad to meet you, Mr. Klymer,"
he said. "There is always a nat-
ural desire to meet a man when he be-
comes notorious—I mean, of course, in
the public eye—as you are, that in spite
of what his political enemies may say
about him—and that's true, you know—
not that it's true what your enemies
say about you, but the general propo-
sition—and I always believe in giving
credit to a criminal the benefit of the doubt
—I'm not speaking of politicians, al-
though they certainly are entitled to
the same—that is, as a class—or, rather,
not as a class, for some politicians are
among our best citizens—nothing per-
sonal intended. I assure you—because
if you give a dog a bad name—er—no
reference to any particular one, you un-
derstand—and not wishing to institute
any invidious—don't you think, Mr.
Klymer it's time for the Sox to be get-
ting a few players that can hit the
ball?"—Chicago Tribune.

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They get the same styles, same
leathers, same lasts and the same
shoes in every particular, and save
from a dollar to four and a half on
every pair.
It may seem odd to you that it is
possible for us to do this, but the
explanation is simple. After all
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